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Message From The Commander

As the CJTF-HOA Commander, I recognize the sacrifices you and other military families make on a daily basis. In an effort to continue to support you, we have made our Family Readiness Program a priority. Fortunately, the Family Readiness Program of the CJTF-HOA is comprised of caring, efficient and professional service members and volunteer spouses.



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

CJTF-HOA Info

- 1(866)360-3775
- 1(910)451-2222

American Red Cross

- 1(877)272-7337

TriCare Appointment/Advice

- 1(800)931-9501

CJTF-HOA Adjutant/Reports Officer, Djibouti, Africa -Lt. R.C. Francis

- e-mail: Francisrc@hoa.centcom.mil

CJTF-HOA Family Readiness Officer -Lt. J.A. Polson

- 1(910)451-8735
- e-mail: polsonja@2dMarDiv.usmc.mil

CJTF-HOA Family Readiness Staff Noncommissioned Officer

-Gunnery Sgt. F.V. Munoz

- 1(910)451-8719
- email: Munozfv@2dMarDiv.usmc.mil

My official communication link to families concerning the current status of the CJTF-HOA is the toll free information line (866) 360-3775. This number also provides you the opportunity to contact resources for information and referral to support agencies. The Task Force's Web site can be found at www.cjtfhoa.centcom.mil. We also produce this monthly newsletter that we mail out plus we post it on our Web site for you to download. The Commander's weekly phone message is updated every Sunday and a transcript will be available on our Web site as well. In addition, our website provides general information, pictures, and points of contact in case of emergency.

Thank you for your continued support and your prayers. I know that separation is never easy, but the work CJTF-HOA is doing out here is very important, and you can be proud of our contribution to the Global War on Terrorism. One day the world will be a safer place for our children to grow up in.

Sincerely,

Mastin M. Robeson
Brigadier General, USMC



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Memorial services held to honor Fallen Marine

CAMP LEMONIER, Djibouti – Memorial services for Marine Capt. Seth R. Michaud, a 27-year-old pilot with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461 were held here June 24 by the Squadron and June 28 by Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa.

Michaud, from Hudson, Mass, was killed while participating in a Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa training exercise June 22. Michaud, from Hudson, Mass. was based at Marine Corps Air Station, New River, N.C. His wife, Karen Marie Michaud, and 18-month-old son Ian survive him.

During the memorial service held June 24 at the Enduring Freedom Chapel, the eulogy was given by HMH-461's commanding officer Marine Lt. Col. Lawrence E. Miccolis.

"He always gave it his all, he represented the heart of the squadron and he always will. He was a hero, he was a Marine who gave the ultimate sacrifice to his country while defending it against terrorism," he said.

The chapel was filled with more than 200 Marines, sailors, soldiers and airmen to commemorate Michaud's life and the ultimate sacrifice he gave to his country while serving with CJTF-HOA in the Global War on Terrorism.

In the forefront of the chapel, a table displayed a picture of Michaud, his identification tags and the gear a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter pilot wears to complete missions.

"He was a very dedicated husband and father. He was proud to fly CH-53s, he was proud to be an officer and proud to be a part of the unit. We will never forget," said Miccolis.





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All CJTF-HOA members and representatives from local Djiboutian and French forces attended the June 28 memorial service.

The ceremony concluded with the Rendering of Honors to include the Bell Toll, a 21-Gun Salute and the playing of taps.

Capt Michaud was killed and eight other U.S. service members were injured when errant bombs dropped from a B-52 Stratofortress landed near forces training at Godoria Range, about 60 miles north of Camp Lemonier.

Seven of the injured service members were transported to Bouffard Hospital in Djibouti for treatment of more severe injuries. At this time, all the injured are being treated at several different facilities and are recovering from their injuries.

About 50 personnel from Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa were participating in a Supporting Arms Training Exercise (SATEX), routine training involving the coordination of aerial bombardment missions. Personnel on the ground communicate with pilots during these types of missions.

During the exercise, the B-52 completed a simulated aerial bombardment mission, then dropped nine M117 general-purpose bombs, which impacted near CJTF-HOA personnel and two Marine CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters parked adjacent to the range.

Service members at the scene provided immediate first aid and contacted the CJTF-HOA headquarters, which dispatched a medical evacuation helicopter from the airfield at Camp Lemonier and notified local hospital personnel. Medical teams at the hospital were prepared for the casualties as they arrived in ambulances, escorted by Djiboutian police.

The two CH-53E helicopters, which had been used to transport troops and equipment to the range, were destroyed in the accident. They remain at Godoria Range pending the initial accident site evaluation.

The cause of the accident, the first resulting in serious injury or loss of life to CJTF-HOA forces, is currently under investigation.





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J-1

June was quite busy for the entire J1 staff. We started off the month by saying goodbye to some CJTF-HOA personnel who were key contributors to the CJTF-HOA mission. Leaving us were Col. Keith Seiwel, the J1 Director, Maj. Diana Lizotte, Deputy J1, Lt. j.g. Sean Finnerty, the Adjutant/Reports Officer and Cpl. James A. Williams, Administration NCO. We welcomed aboard Col. Stone Quillian, Lt. Robert Francis, Master Gunnery Sgt. Ducote and Cpl. Thomas Brock.

The relieving of the watch was not just isolated to J1, but occurred camp wide as we said goodbye to over 60 personnel from CJTF-HOA alone. While it is true that some members of our CJTF-HOA family have been extended beyond their originally scheduled Temporary Duty (TD) end date, rest assured that Capt. Sara Yoder, the J1 Joint Manning Document representative, is working diligently to find reliefs for everyone.

The way personnel replacement processes works is 90 days from the TD orders end date an Individual Augmentation Request message is sent to the service branch responsible for the billet. The service branch will then task a subordinate command to fill the billet. Approximately 30 days prior to the TAD end date, a message is sent to the CJTF-HOA Joint Manning Document Manager in J1, providing the name of the relief. J1 will then pass the name and expected arrival date to the incumbent to perform sponsor duties and to make preparations to return home. It is our goal to see your loved ones return home as directed in the Temporary Duty Orders and when this does not happen as scheduled, please understand that we will continue to do everything in our power to expedite the process.

Commandant visits CJTF-HOA

*Story and Photos By: Sgt. Matthew B. Roberson,
Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa*

CAMP LEMONIER, Djibouti – The Commandant and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps visited the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa here, June 19 to congratulate Marines, sailors, soldiers and airmen on a job well done.

Gen. Michael W. Hagee and Sgt. Maj. Alford L. McMichael addressed all branches of service and then answered questions regarding current issues and future operations.

During the address, Hagee praised CJTF-HOA saying, “I want to thank you for what you are doing; it is extremely important in the Global War on Terrorism.”

He went on to say, “This was a relatively unstable and insecure area here in the Horn of Africa before your arrival. Since your arrival, that security situation has changed, and it’s a direct result of what you are doing.

“The countries here have begun to cooperate with one another, and that is the first step in this Global War on Terrorism. The reason they are cooperating is because of the engagement and security cooperation you are setting up here.”





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Hagee recognized each branch of the service in his speech and said they were all accomplishing the counter-terrorism mission of detecting, disrupting and defeating transnational terrorism.

“This is a joint operation, and we recognize it as such,” said Hagee. “What you are doing here is quite important to your individual services, but it’s equally important for the nation and the people here in the Horn of Africa and up through Yemen.”

“We understand that your mission here is as important as any other mission being conducted in the world,” said McMichael. “Your presence

here lets the world know that we are the premiere force in total readiness.

“You should be patting each other on the back and looking at each other with great pride knowing that what you are doing here is truly making a difference in the Global War on Terrorism.”

The Commandant ended his speech by commenting on the Marine Corps role during Operation Iraqi Freedom, “There is no other force, except the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Navy that can project combat power ashore in such a short period of time, and then sustain it over almost 600 miles.”

The speech was followed by a tour of Camp Lemonier, in which Brig. Gen. Mastin M. Robeson, CJTF-HOA commander, showed the commandant and sergeant major the troops living spaces along with other facilities they use such as the weight room and dining facility.

Although the commandant was only at Camp Lemonier a few hours, he made a point of finding time to stop by the berthing areas and answer questions concerning awards, time left in country and a variety of other issues with Marines deployed here in support of counter-terrorism operations.

McMichael said the trip was extremely special because he got to see first hand the job the Marines of CJTF-HOA are doing, and because this was his last trip as the fourteenth sergeant major of the Marine Corps.





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J-2

Intel troops keep CJTF-HOA informed

*Story and Photos By: Cpl. Paula M. Fitzgerald,
Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa*

CAMP LEMONIER, Djibouti – They make up one of the largest sections of Combined Joint Task Force and provide the “ears and eyes” for the task force’s area of operations (AO), which includes the airspace, land areas and coastal waters of Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Kenya.

“They” are the airmen, soldiers, sailors, Marines and Coalition personnel of the CJTF-HOA Intelligence Section, also known as CJ-2, who work day and night at the Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility here to gather up-to-date information about terrorist activity in the AO.

“Our mission in CJ-2 is to provide the CJTF-HOA commander and his staff with all sorts of fused intelligence,” explained Marine Gunnery Sgt. Dewey L. Severs, CJ-2 analyst chief. “This basically means that we take raw data that we collect and develop it into one ‘big picture-type’ product. Once we get that raw data to make sense, it is called intelligence.”

According the Denver native, CJ-2 amasses information through a variety of outside sources, like the Internet, higher headquarters at U.S. Central Command and from person-to-person contact with the local citizens in the AO.

Members of Coalition militaries, who can speak the native language, collect most of the data

gathered from host-nation citizens. This information could be in the form of signals and electronic monitoring, human reporting or photography.

After receiving the data, Severs and his team, ranging from junior enlisted to senior officers, analyze the information and decide whether it needs to be addressed by the task force’s staff.

Cpl. Natalia Slain, CJ-2 productions chief and former Yemen analyst, explained, “We have country analysis teams that research the seven countries and turn in articles each day.”

Slain went on to say that CJ-2 is not looking for just terrorists. “Our primary job out here is to track down terrorists, but we also maintain situational awareness. That means each of the country team analysts has to be extremely knowledgeable of the political and geographical situations of their countries.”

After the articles are put together, Slain, of Carmel, Ind., uses them to make the “daily intelligence summary,” which is briefed to the CJTF-HOA commanding general and his staff.

The data is then passed on to personnel monitoring and managing operations across the Horn of Africa region from the CJTF Joint Operations Center.





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“We then provide the intelligence to the JOC so they can come up with ways to deal with anything that needs attention, whether that be monitoring terrorist targets or doing some sort of humanitarian mission.” said Severs.

Master Gunnery Sgt. Tony Howard, the CJTF-HOA operations chief, and his team at the JOC formulate plans the task force’s staff can use to react to different intelligence.

Howard, of Augusta, Ga., stated, “If troops from the task force are going out for a Civil Affairs mission or something like that, then we can use the intelligence provided by the CJ-2 to decide how much and what kind of force protection those troops need for the mission.”

The action taken in response to credible intelligence could range from monitoring possible terrorist threats to actually sending troops into an area to eradicate a threat, according to Howard.

Although combat operations have not occurred since the task force assumed responsibility for the region, such action is possible in the future.

As Severs affirmed, there is a terrorist threat to U.S. and Coalition forces in the area and host nation peoples.

Severs said, “As long as nothing bad happens to the members of CJTF-HOA, we know we’re doing our job. To this point, we’ve been incredibly successful. The troops know the area of operations and continue to keep up-to-date to provide the task force’s general and his staff the most accurate intelligence possible.”

J-3

Greetings from Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. The month of June kept the J-3 busy as we focused on integrating newly joined section personnel and welcoming the following unit to the HOA: Detachment, 463rd Engineers (Construction). They will provide CJTF-HOA additional organic operational reach and flexibility in support of a wide variety of counter-terrorism activities across the Horn of Africa region.

The Operations Section coordinated the following training evolutions: Maritime security training between a team of CJTF-HOA forces and Yemeni special operations personnel. The recently completed training between CJTF-HOA (Marines from 2d Reconnaissance Battalion, 2d Marine Division) and Yemeni forces was aimed in part at addressing potential terrorist transit routes across the strategic Bab al-Mandeb straits from Yemen's oil-rich Marib province into the Horn of Africa region. A combined CJTF-HOA/French Forces anti-aircraft exercise conducted at Camp Lemonnier honed both force's anti-aircraft tactics, techniques and procedures. CJTF-HOA forces also are currently training Kenyan naval forces and are planning for upcoming anti-terrorism training in other countries in the region.

We continued our partnership building via our participation in the following events/meetings: BGen Robeson completed a two-day visit to Yemen and met with several military commanders including Col. Ahmed Ali Saleh, commander of Yemen's Special Operations Forces and other government and military officials to discuss progress and future plans for combating terrorism. The visit with Yemeni leaders coincided with the completion of maritime security training and graduation ceremonies. The CJTF-HOA Commander escorted the Commander U.S. Central Command, Gen Franks, on a three-day trip that included stops in Ethiopia, Djibouti and Eritrea to discuss current efforts, progress and future plans for fighting the Global War on Terrorism in the CJTF operations area.

The J-3 bid farewell to the following individuals: Col. J.P. Kane; Lt. Col. S.D. Aiken; Cmdr. E.S. Whiteman; Lt. Cmdr. B.A. Bloye; Maj. A.K. Conely; Lt. Cmdr. S.C. Davis; Maj. G.M. Fraser; Lt. Cmdr. K.W. King; Maj. O.J. Nesbit; Chief Warrant Officer M.R. Hassan; Lt. D.P. Kelling; Capt. A.D. Staples; Lt. L. Marra (Italian Navy LNO); Lt. j.g. A.D. Restrepo; Mr. Ray Marks; Master Gunnery Sgt. T.E. Howard; OS1 A. Pierite; Staff Sgt. R.J. Roberson; Cpl. A.J. Brouillard; Cpl. A.K. McGraw; Cpl. D.J. Todd; and Lance Cpl. J.Y. Ellenburg.

J-3 welcomed aboard the following individuals: Maj. F.W. Vetter, Special Operations Future Operations Planner; Lt. T.C. Boelke, Current Operations Scheduling Officer; Lt. j.g. D.S. Coles, Naval



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Surface Fires Officer; 1st Lt. J.R. Klein, Ground Fires Officer; Mr. Wilson Bernadino, COP Technical Representative; Master Gunnery Sgt. B.L. Walker, Operations Chief; Sgt. K.D. Morgan, Data Systems Technician; and Cpl. Mitchell, Journal Clerk.

The J3 would like to recognize the achievements of the following individual: Cpl. Z.S. Mays, JOC Journal Clerk, was awarded his first Good Conduct Medal on 21 May 2003, by Lt. Col. Aiken in a ceremony in the JOC.

US CENTCOM Commander Visits CJTF-HOA

*Story and Photos By: Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi,
Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa*



CAMP LEMONIER, Djibouti – Gen. Tommy Franks, commander, U.S. Central Command, visited Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa operations June 26, taking time to address the nearly 1,800 service members here conducting counter-terrorism operations across the region.

Gen. Franks, who is retiring in July after 38 years of service in the U.S. Army, was accompanied by Brig. Gen. Mastin M. Robeson, commander, CJTF-HOA on a regional tour that also included stops in Ethiopia and Eritrea. The CJTF operations area, part of the US CENTCOM area of operations, is defined as the total airspace, land areas and coastal waters of Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Yemen.

Franks told the gathering of soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, “The purpose of this (visit) is for me to have a chance to represent millions of people and stand up here and tell you all thanks a whole lot for being a half a world away from everything that’s important to you. The Global War on Terrorism wouldn’t be doing anything if you weren’t doing what you’re doing – that’s a fact.”

Franks went on to say, “Everyone here should be very proud of who you are, what you do and where you are. Recognize what you’re doing is buying a future for my grandbabies, your children

and future grandchildren. Thanks a lot for what you’re doing for the country.”

Before wading into the crowd for hundreds of handshakes and photos, Franks urged CJTF-HOA forces to “take care of yourself, take care of each other and most importantly, take care of the mission.”

After receiving an intelligence update and briefs on current CJTF operations, Franks and Robeson discussed the overall progress of the mission. They also reviewed the emerging relationships and degree of support from national leaders in the region and discussed requirements for synchronizing maritime, land-based and aviation assets at key points in the Horn of Africa to better focus counter-terrorism operations.

Franks also met with Maj. Gen Fathi Ahmed Houssein, Djibouti’s Chief of Defense and was received by Ismail Omar Guelleh, President, Republic of Djibouti for talks on coalition force operations and partnership issues with Djibouti.



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In brief ceremony, President Guelleh took the opportunity to honor Franks by presenting him with the Medaille de Commandeur de la Grande Etoile de Djibouti (Commander of the Djibouti Grand Star Order) for his service and contributions toward creating a more secure and stable environment in Djibouti.

Last week, Lt. Gen. John P. Abizaid, Deputy Commander (Forward) for U.S. Central Command, and U.S. President George W. Bush's nominee to succeed Franks as commander for U.S. CENTCOM, visited CJTF-HOA operations here. Abizaid also met with President Guelleh, as well as Djiboutian and coalition military officials engaged in counter-terrorism operations across the region.

Franks and Robeson met with Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and Chief of Staff, Ethiopian National Defense Force, Lt. Gen. Samora Yenusto on June 25 in Addis Ababa to reaffirm support for creating an environment leading to economic stability and national development. Also, U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia, Aurelia Brazeal hosted a dinner in Gen. Franks' honor that was attended by Ethiopian Minister of Defense, Abadula Gemmeda and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Seyoum Mesfin.

In Asmara, Franks and Robeson met with an Eritrean delegation on June 27 led by President of Eritrea, Isaias Afwerki, which also included Minister of Defense, Gen. Sebhat Efram and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ali Said Abdella. U.S. Ambassador to Eritrea, Donald J. McConnell accompanied Franks and Robeson for meetings with Eritrean officials to discuss the CJTF mission and other regional security issues.

Recent East Africa visits by Franks and Abizaid underscore the importance of the CJTF-HOA mission and the commitment of U.S. CENTCOM to partner with host nations to win the Global War on Terrorism in the Horn of Africa region. The CJTF-HOA headquarters, which arrived in theater in December 2002 to oversee operations in the Horn of Africa for U.S. CENTCOM, has the mission of detecting, disrupting and defeating transnational terrorism in the region and assisting in creating conditions that deny the reemergence of terrorist activity.



J-4

"Movement and Transportation"

The Combined Joint Task Force J4 section would like to say welcome aboard to our newest members of the J4 family. Which are Maj. Shawn Hayes-Davis, Capt. Bradley Heath, Chief Petty Officer Kenneth Kosman, SSgt. Shane Beckwith, Sgt. Robert Sherry, and Sgt. David Williams.

During the month of June the J4 has seen more personnel leave our happy family like Capt. Christopher Lange, Capt. Matthew King, Capt. Dan Woods, Lt. Steven Furda, Sgt. Stephen Tongue, and Spc. Jareo Vasquez. We would like to say thank-you for all the hard work they have done since coming to the Horn of Africa, and wish them all the luck in their Army Career's.

Capt. Jody Chalich and Master Sgt. David Jeska are still hard at work keeping track of all personnel and equipment, especially the mail coming and going to Djibouti and different Countries in the Horn of Africa. Gunnery Sgt. Stephen Mobley is working on Logistics situations for the J4 and conducting Logistics observations throughout the Horn of Africa like in the Country of Ethiopia. Cpl. Douglas Fox,



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Lance Cpl. Ryan Dunn and Lance Cpl. Dontellius White are keeping busy with different Guard Duties like Djiboutian Watch, SKIF watch and their regular duties in the J-4 Section and throughout Camp Lemonier.

During the Month of June Gunnery Sgt. Mark (Toby) Tobias is still hard at work conducting observations and de-mining operations through out the country of Eritrea. We look forward to his return at Camp Lemonier.

Maj. Jake Pelletier along with the rest of the Engineer Section are hard at work conducting survey and assessments throughout the country of Djibouti. Also the J-4 Engineer Section has received a lot of help by the Army Det. of Engineers which has just set foot at Camp Lemonier. They have been sent to help out on Construction Sites through out the Horn of Africa. We welcome their help, and we are sure they will do an outstanding job for the people of Djibouti and throughout the Horn of Africa.

Material Readiness Section reigned by Lt. Col. Reinhold has been hard at work handling all supplies issues coming through the J-4 Section. New furniture and equipment are still coming in. Tech Sgt. Herrera and Sgt. David Williams are working hard at maintaining supply and Open Purchases issues. Ordering any type of supplies and equipment, which can be used to help out personnel here at Camp Lemonier.

Our Contracting Section reigned by Lt. Cmdr. Thomas Armstrong and Sgt. Robert Sherry is doing an outstanding job. Keeping track of all Contracts between the Djiboutian Contractors and the Engineers here on Base.

J-5

"Plans, Policy, Liaison and Travel"

The month of June brought a few new faces to Djibouti. Life in beautiful Camp Lemonier continues to be enjoyable in spite of the heat and humidity. During June several of our team rotated home or on to new adventures. Maj. T.C. Coons, Maj. Phillipe Fourre, Cpl. Shake and Lance Cpl. Hawthorne all departed. Since these individuals had been here since December 02, it was good to see them get home to their loved ones. Replacements came in to fill the gaps as is the normal process. New members include Lt. Col. Phil Adams came in as Lt. Col. Lundy's replacement and USN Lt. Brad Hogan arrived as Lt. Santiago's replacement. Lance Cpl. Donny Milton came in to replace Cpl. Shake in the administration department. The J-5 line numbers remain fairly well filled and we are getting the job done.

The schedule of travel throughout the Horn of Africa countries remains steady for the commander and various staff personnel. With General Franks making his final tour around his Area of Responsibility, Brig. Gen. Robeson accompanied Gen. Franks on his travels through the Horn of Africa. The Commandant of the Marine Corps, the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps and the Commander of Marine Forces Atlantic as well as other assorted dignitaries also visited us in Camp Lemonier. The troops took lots of pictures with the Generals and the Sergeant Major.

Working travel issues remains a steady task but sometimes a good deal comes up. Lance Cpl. McIntosh traveled to Al Deid to see a rock concert and was stranded there for an extra couple of days.

Next month will see the rotation of the remaining Marines who departed Camp LeJeune last November. Col. Lake, Lt. Col. Duhs, Maj. Casey will all depart in mid July.



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CJTF-HOA Troops Acquire Valuable Information

*Story By: Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi,
Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa*

CAMP LEMONIER, Djibouti – Country Desk Teams (CDT) play an essential role in Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa's counter-terrorism mission here.

Mission accomplishment involves CJTF forces having the most up-to-date knowledge the CDT's provide on all seven countries CJTF-HOA operates in; Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Yemen. Without this knowledge, the task force could not effectively fight terrorism, according to Marine Lt. Col. Thomas Duhs, deputy director of Theater Security Coordination.

Once forces are assigned a mission, they need to know the background and the present political/military climate in the country. CDT's supply this information, as well as briefing and coordination to facilitate the task force's involvement with other countries.

"Before entering Eritrea or Ethiopia, troops have to realize these two nations just signed a peace treaty (in 2000) after being at war against one another for more than 10 years," Duhs said.

CJTF-HOA has a Country Desk Officer designated for each country in the Horn of Africa Region. The Country Desk Officer serves as the resident expert for the CDT with up-to-date knowledge of his/her assigned nation. CDO's maintain situational awareness of current events, strength of militaries, biographies of key leaders, prominent religions and road systems, Duhs said.

The CJTF also has representatives who live and work at American embassies throughout the region. These liaison officers, in conjunction with CDO's at the CJTF headquarters here, form the cohesive CDT. By having representatives of both the regional counter-terrorism headquarters in Djibouti and personnel living and working in partner nations, CDTs are better able to see the larger picture concerning intelligence, operations and logistics of a given country, and integrate information with activities across the Horn of Africa region.

"In order to be accepted in the region, we have to understand the countries," Duhs said.

"Each country has different customs and sensitivities that we have to be aware of," said Marine Capt. Christa Bowdish, Djibouti and Ethiopia CDO. "We use numerous resources to gather this information."

The team uses an extensive database of research produced through the Internet which links CJTF-HOA into inter-agency information from across the U.S. Departments of Defense, State and Justice. The team also taps into the Internet for a wide variety of news, cultural and other research information from host nation sites. Further information comes from host nation officials.

A particular aspect of the team's mission that has met with great success is the proposal and coordination of various projects with ministry-level officials from partner countries.

"We met with the Minister of Health and the Minister of Education to help identify schools, hospitals and clinics for refurbishment in the Dikhil, Ali Sabieh, Tadjourah and Obock districts (in Djibouti)," she said.

"By knowing what their (a country's) needs are," Bowdish explains, "we are able to outline the best course of action on our (CJTF-HOA) part."





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“Not only do we get a better grasp of their culture, but we also synchronize the host nation and the task force to complete the same goal.”

A key element to CJTF-HOA’s mission is making a positive difference in the lives of the region’s inhabitants, thereby “giving back” to the people and communities through Civil-Military operations.

“We look at a particular country and ask ourselves, ‘What type of operation could we accomplish that will support our mission?’” Duhs said.

Due in part to CDT associations and partnerships, CJTF-HOA has worked with local Djiboutian community leaders to stage four medical clinics, construct a water system to irrigate crops and built structures to store food in numerous villages.

Joint training exercises have been conducted as well, to include Marine Corps Martial Arts, where Marines taught Djiboutian soldiers from the Fast Action Rapid Battalion the first level of the program. Also members of the CJTF small craft detachment have taught forces from the Djiboutian Navy various tactics, techniques and procedures associated with small boat handling, maintenance and maritime patrol combat formations.

“We are always planning for future involvement,” Bowdish added. “We are very eager to collaborate with countries in the region.”

Planned projects include training between the U.S. Army’s Company C, 4th, Battalion, 31st Regiment, 10th Mountain Division and Ethiopian forces. While Ethiopian forces have extensive experience and expertise in ground combat operations, CJTF forces plan to provide training that can be used effectively to fight the war on terrorism.

Duhs went on to say, everything the team initiates in the region revolves around the task force’s ability to detect, deter and defeat transnational terrorism in the region.

J-6

Summer has come to the US and with it the events of warm weather; sports, family outings, grass cutting and freedom from the shelters that cold weather imposed. Summer has come to Djibouti as well and the weather has also changed. We have daily dust storms and still hotter weather. The winds are coming from the desert west. The best way to describe the wind is to say it’s like placing your face in an oven or in front of a hair dryer on high heat. It’s truly amazing. So while the people in the US are getting out we are running for air-conditioned spaces, where we can.

I bet that most of the service members would be glad to cut grass. As a matter of fact one of the airmen’s wives sent him a handful of grass seed to plant and the strands of grass are coming along nicely. He even took his socks off and actually stuck his big toe in the few sprouted blades. He said it felt like Ohio.

The J-6 section continues to maintain the critical communications systems necessary for the forces of the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) to pursue the fight against terrorism. We have been busy and productive. Everyone is staying busy and trying to stay cool.

The important visitors of the month include several foreign military officers including the Germans who brought with them gifts of coffee and light-hearted friendship and good will. It is rumored that they have over 600 kegs of beer on board their ship. Many on the CJTF-HOA staff desire to confirm this rumor.

The personnel rotations have started and we said goodbye to quite a few of our friends. We said goodbye to: Maj. Nathan, Capt. Bond, 1st Lt. Manns, Chief Warrant Officer Trautman, Warrant Officer Murphy, Master Gunnery Sgt. Arnold, Master Sgt. Pitts, Master Sgt. Gubko, ITC Dorsey, ITC Newell, Tech. Sgt. Gutierrez, Staff Sgt. Secrest, Staff Sgt. Trofa, Sgt. Romigh, Sgt. Stevens, Sgt. Thompson, Sgt. Sinhaseni, Sgt. Ord, IT2 Johnson, IT2 McBay, IT2 Babbee, Spc. Chin, Cpl. Bert, Cpl. Morales and Lance Cpl. Anzaldua. We also said goodbye to the US Ambassador to Djibouti, Mr. Yamamoto. He has been key in establishing the CJTF-HOA presence here in Djibouti.



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We are happy to welcome aboard Maj. Barry, Maj. Dentry, Lt. Parra, Master Sgt. Coleman, Master Sgt. Teague, ITC Gillis, ITC Leigh, ITC Zellars, IT1 Roberson, Staff Sgt. Pierce, IT2 Alford, IT2 Ashton, Sgt. Rosa, Sgt. Ferguson, Sgt. Machado, IT3 Magpily, Lance Cpl. Cates, Lance Cpl. Monroe, Lance Cpl. Mejia and Pfc. Miller. Welcome to the one team, one fight.

We have received indications that even the long awaited replacements for the Air Force personnel are getting identified for rotation during the month of July. So this means that we will have a complete new team by the end of July.

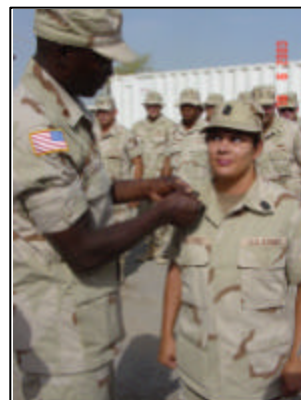
Another item of interest was Brigadier General Robeson promoting Staff Sgt. Antonio Tamayo, USAF, to his present rank in a semi-formal ceremony and then the senior staff noncommissioned officer issued the "NCO Charge". Staff Sgt. Thomas Zaldivar and Cpl. Michael Danner, USMC, received Good Conduct Medals. Lt. Schuh and Capt. Kauffman have Master Gunnery Sgt. Apriesnig helping them when they volunteer to feed the infant children in the Catholic orphanage on Fridays.

We look forward to celebrating the 4th of July, the day of our nation's independence and to the day that we can spend holidays together with our families again.

Civil Affairs

Members of Company C 478th CA BN have been busy coordinating different humanitarian missions to include MEDCAPS (medical civic action projects) and VETCAPS (veterinarian civic action projects). Members of the 478th have also helped in the local city by assisting with the refurbishment of a center for abused women. Currently members of the 478th are coordinating other humanitarian projects throughout the Horn of Africa.

Eileen Pentzke was promoted to the rank of Master Sergeant in the United States Army on June 16, 2003 here in Camp Lemonier.



CJTF-HOA troops donate time, care to animals during VETCAP

*Story and Photos By: Cpl. Paula M. Fitzgerald,
Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa*



ALI SABIEH, Djibouti – The scene here June 14 was organized chaos as soldiers from Company C, 478th Civil Affairs Battalion provided needed medical attention to nearly 600 sheep, goats and donkeys during the first Veterinary Civil Action Program conducted by Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa.

A key element of CJTF-HOA's counter-terrorism mission lies in making a positive difference in the lives of the people in the region as well as their environment.

A group of 13 Civil Affairs soldiers and



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one French veterinarian teamed up with local animal doctors and Alan Funk, director of the non-government organization International Development and Relief Board, for the event.

Army Lt. Col. Charles A. Johnson, staff veterinarian, explained how the task force became involved with the IDRB. "We initially met with Mr. Funk here to discuss the problem the villagers have been having with hyenas attacking their flocks."

Although Johnson and his team are still determining a solution to the hyena problem, they decided to conduct a VETCAP immediately.

"Our main purpose out here was to provide treatment to the common animals. We treated for ticks, lice and roundworms. Plus, we donated some veterinary medical supplies to the local vet," said the Stockton, N.J. native.

For the troops, the mission was to inject the livestock with Ivermectin, which rids the animals of external and internal parasites.

According to Johnson, most of the animals were relatively calm and easy to work with.

Funk, who has lived in the Horn of Africa since 1994 explained the significance of the VETCAP as "the livelihood for the people in this area."

Most of the people in the Ali Sabieh district are Somali nomadic herders, who move throughout the countries of Djibouti, Somalia and Ethiopia dependent on where the coolest weather is.

Funk stated, "When we (IDRB) first started out here, we were planning on doing immunizations for the (human) babies and mothers. The people explained to us that if we got their animals healthy then it would be a lot easier to keep the people healthy."

The NGO, which seeks help from outside sources, focuses much of its attention on immunizing cattle, camels, goats, sheep and burros against external and internal parasites.

"These animals provide a great source of wealth for the people. If the animals are healthy, they will produce good milk and meat that the families can sell or eat," said Funk.

Johnson said he would like to put together bigger VETCAPs in the future to help the people of the Horn of Africa region.

"This was a unique experience for me," he said. "I definitely want to do as many of these as we can."





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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPLAIN

As CJTF-HOA mourns the loss of Capt. Seth Michaud from HMH-461, once again we are reminded of the price of freedom and the sacrifices necessary to sustain that freedom. Many questions come to the forefront - some have answers, others are left to the mysteries of God. As we continue to pray for the recovery of the injured and for Karen and Ian Michaud, I would encourage you to reflect on the following guidelines for living, which have been gleaned from the Scriptures:

1. Look at the big picture. All of us are in the process of change. While we can't control our environment, we can focus on the big picture. We can do this in response to some meaningful questions, such as "Why am I here?"; "What difference can I make?"; "Are the sacrifices made worth the gain?; and "Will it ever get any better?" Each one of us is created by God and is very special. God knows all about your life and is concerned with all the details. He loves you, has a plan for you, and desires that you grow and mature through adversity. Difficulties are a fact of life. How we respond to those difficulties in the long run is a measure of our spiritual maturity. Your loved ones are here at the CJTF-HOA in response to the events of Sept. 11. What would be at stake if our mission were not undertaken? You, our children, and families are ultimately why we are here. Despite the challenges you have back home and the service-members have here, our big picture drives us forward.

2. Lean on one another. We are created to have meaningful friendship. To isolate is to desolate. Our emotional and spiritual health is directly related to our ability to connect with others. Why not pick up the phone and call someone special? Meet some friends at a weekly gathering? Using your creativity, you find many inexpensive things you can do with others. Before long you will feel like you belong. With a good friend or support group you will be able to laugh, cry, play, and talk with others as you build friendships that can last a lifetime.

3. Live each day fully. Life is a gift. You have heard the old sayings, "Time lost is never found again;" and "You are becoming tomorrow what you are today." If we spend too much time playing the "if" game, much of life will pass us by. Perhaps you know someone who has been consumed by "what if?" By dreaming that life was different, "what if-ers" watch life drift away. Each moment is a gift with almost endless possibilities. Who you are and what you do are two sides of your personality. Explore your spiritual side and come to peace with the wonderful person God created in you. Do what is meaningful for yourself, family, friends, and God. Neglecting the things that need to be done today may end up being yesterday's regrets and tomorrow's consequences.

4. Look forward with a positive outlook. Have you ever noticed that when you purchased a car or a new clothing item that suddenly you started seeing similar ones all around you? The same things happen emotionally. Your expectations will predetermine your experience. If you expect others to be grouchy, they may appear that way. If you expect someone to make a mistake, sure enough sooner or later you will find one. On the other hand, if you look for the best you will discover it and will become a source of inspiration to others.

5. Listen to God. God desires to be your focus and strength. As a Heavenly Father, He desires to communicate with you. You can relate to Him through Scripture study, prayers, places of worship, and with other believers. Some guidance and comfort can only come from God. About the time a lot of you were born bumper stickers appeared with the words "Try God." The closer you get to God the more peace you experience. Why not begin today to live the better way?

Let us reflect, mourn, and consider the value of our loved ones. Hug your children, call your friends, and send positive emails. With God's grace we can all become stronger, more focused, and discover a deeper meaning in life. Remember, your Religious Ministry Team here at CJTF-HOA, RP1 John Caudle and Chaplain Hal Scott, are praying for you and your family members here. God Bless.



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Coalition Forces

French Military Hones Anti-Aircraft Missile Capability

*Story By: Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi,
Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa*

CAMP LEMONIER, Djibouti – Combat capabilities between Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa and French troops were displayed during an exercise that honed both force's anti-aircraft tactics, techniques and procedures, here.

The exercise's objective was to refine the CJTF ability to defend the camp against a variety of aerial threats. French Mirage aircraft served as the attacking enemy force flying offensive patterns simulating different attack profiles.

"We welcome French involvement. The level of our cooperation grows daily," said Marine Lt. Col. Harold J. Flanagan, force protection officer, Command Logistics Element, Marine Central Command. "They are a part of our base defense plan."

The strength of the two forces derives from their common bond to create a secure and stable environment in Djibouti, according to Flanagan. This bond is displayed in many forms to include completing numerous training exercises and utilizing each other's assets to achieve their goals.

During the exercise, the French had numerous Anti-Air Missile Systems called Mistrals positioned in different key locations aboard camp to track the planes.

The Mistral is a short-range air defense missile system that can be used from various platforms – vehicles, surface ships, helicopters and a portable configuration.

The system is portable by two people, one carrying the missile and one carrying the firing unit. The system can be set up and ready to fire in 60 seconds.

A telescopic sight is used for target acquisition. The IFF (identification, friend or foe) interrogator installed in the launcher operates while the target is being tracked. The system can also be fitted with a thermal imaging night sight.

The missile is fired when the gunner sees a confirmation light on the launcher signaling that the infrared sensor system is locked-on to the target. The missile's range is up to 6 kilometers, which it reaches in 9 seconds.

This is one of many resources French forces bring to the region. Djibouti, their largest foreign military base, hosts several thousand French military personnel who are here to provide for the internal defense of Djibouti.





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Force protection officers supporting the CJTF-HOA meet with their French counterparts weekly to discuss coordination of security, assignments of control sectors and innovative new force protection measures.



“My deputy’s (Chief Warrant Officer Michel P. Flynn) ability to fluently speak French greatly increased our relationship and ability to coordinate tangible benefits to increase our security measures,” said Flanagan, a reserve Marine from 4th Force Service Support Group, New Orleans.

Along with their ability to take out enemy aircraft, the two nations are also ensuring the skies over Djibouti are safe and sound by serving cooperatively as the air traffic controllers. This allows the two nations to guarantee military and civilian aircraft land and take off safely at Djibouti International Airport.

“The working relationship is professional and friendly,” said Marine 1st Lt. Howard Mui, officer-in-charge of Marine Air Control Squadron – Air Traffic Control Detachment. “The French can be relied upon to assist us when prior coordination is achieved.”

By working hand-in-hand, French and CJTF troops complement each other’s mission of detecting, disrupting and defeating terrorists who pose an imminent threat to coalition partners in the region, and providing for defense, security and stability of Djibouti.

10th Mountain

10th Mountain uses know-how to help CJTF-HOA fight terrorism

*Story and Photos By: Cpl. Paula M. Fitzgerald,
Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa*

CAMP LEMONIER, Djibouti – After a grueling month providing their combat skills in the mountains of Afghanistan, soldiers from the U.S. Army’s Company C, 4th Battalion, 31st Regiment, 10th Mountain Division from Fort Drum, N.Y., are here supporting Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa with their counter-terrorism expertise.

According to Staff Sgt. Bryan F. Wells, squad leader and acting platoon sergeant, the light infantry company learned a lot from participating in Operations Anaconda and Polar Harpoon while in Afghanistan.

The purpose of Operation Anaconda was to destroy Taliban and Al Qaeda forces fortified in the mountains near Bagram.

“Our mission during Operation Anaconda seemed to change every hour,” said 1st Lt. Matthew Cloud. “We were inserted into our position by helicopter and established an overwatch position for our sister company (Co. A).”

While Co. A swept through the valley below, Co. C, positioned on top Takur Ghar Mountain, engaged the enemy forces operating in caves and dwellings.



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Cloud added, "We received both direct and indirect fire and took several POWs (prisoners-of-war) during the eight days we were out there."

After returning from the mission, the soldiers of Co. C embarked upon a secondary operation.

Both Companies A and C were tasked to clear Takur Ghar,

towering more than 10,000 feet over Afghanistan, and Upper Shahikot Valley during Operation Polar Harpoon.

The operation was named in honor of 4th Bn., 31st Regiment's nickname, "Polar Bears."

Wells, of Chicago, explained, "We were involved in Operation Polar Harpoon for two or three days. We did a lot of patrolling in the mountains looking for the enemy."

Encountering hostile forces was not the only concern the companies faced.

"When we were climbing the mountain, the soldiers were experiencing shortness of breath. The altitude was hard to adjust to at first," he said.

However, that didn't stop them from finishing the job.

The companies were triumphant in capturing and destroying enemy weapons, munitions and equipment as well as clearing several caves and bunkers.

"It was hard to determine if we were successful or not while we were out," Wells added, "but once we got feedback on what we actually did, that's when we were able to say that we had accomplished the mission."

More than a year later, Co. C is back in action aiding in the Global War on Terrorism here for a period of six to 12 months. Its mission is to provide light infantry support to CJTF-HOA in order to defeat transnational terrorism in the Horn of Africa region. This support ranges from a quick reaction force to providing security to the camp if need be.

This time the company is better prepared than prior to the fighting in Afghanistan, according to Spc. Jacob H. Brown, rifleman.

The Saint Elmo, Ill., native went on to say he learned a lot from his time in Afghanistan, including to have faith in his leader's judgment.

"If they say to do something, I've learned not to ask why. I just do it. There's no need to ask why because they know what they're doing," he said.

The company is building upon what they found out in previous assignments in the Global War on Terrorism.





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463rd Engineers

Engineer Platoon arrives at CJTF-HOA

*Story and Photos By: Sgt. Matthew B. Roberson
Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa*



CAMP LEMONIER, Djibouti – U.S. Army Engineers from West Virginia recently arrived here, bringing an entirely new capability to Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa’s mission of detecting, disrupting and defeating terrorism and denying the reemergence of transnational terrorism in the East African Region.

A key element in the counter-terrorism mission of CJTF-HOA is making a positive difference in the lives of people in the region and their environment. This element is where the fifty-man detachment from the 463rd Engineer Battalion will be make its mark.

“One of the biggest ways we’re going to help with counter-terrorism is working in the community and showing the local people that we are here to help,” said Capt. Shawn P. McNabb, 463rd detachment commander, “People get a whole different picture of the Coalition from the stuff we do to help out in local communities.”

He said his soldiers have the ability to build just about anything, ranging from schools and houses to beaches and roads.

“About the only thing we can’t do is asphalt paving,” said McNabb. “We can build just about anything on a small scale.”

The engineers bring a wide variety of skills, equipment, tools and expertise to the Task Force, all of which are incorporated into one reinforced platoon with extensive heavy equipment.



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The platoon focuses efforts on constructing and outfitting houses, schools and other buildings, and is comprised of masons, electricians and plumbers, along with all their tools.

“We have the ability to build any type of structure whether it be steel, wood or concrete masonry,” said McNabb.

The addition of heavy equipment such as bulldozers, dump trucks, graders and loaders, adds the ability to level terrain and landscape construction sites.

The engineers give CJTF-HOA the ability to extend its

already highly successful civil-military operations into more projects in more areas.

While the engineers will clearly benefit the local Djiboutian populace through infrastructure creating and sustaining projects, their presence also enables CJTF-HOA to impact communities in other host nations across the region as well.

As CJTF-HOA begins to transition from the planning and development phase of operations into the execution phase, the engineers will play a vital role in CJTF-HOA efforts to create secure and stable environments that contribute to denying the reemergence of terrorism across the region.

“We get the opportunity to build things that will be there for years and years that the people in the community will use,” said McNabb. “For us, that is the most fulfilling part of the job.”

